

**CROSS SYSTEM YOUTH TASK FORCE**  
**December 18, 2014**

**I. Introduction**

- A. Attendance: Christine Blessinger, Bruce Carter, James (Mike) Goodwin, Cathleen Graham, JauNae Hanger, Kathleen Rusher, Daniel Schroeder, Randall Taylor, Charlie Pratt, Don Travis, Anne Jordan  
Guests: Jessica Crozier, Ft. Wayne Community Schools, Coordinator for the Education of Homeless children and Youth; and Ashley Miller, attorney with Krieg DeVault.
- B. The minutes were approved from the meeting on August 28, 2014, with edits as follows:

***II. Subcommittees:** The middle-tier work group, add Dan Schroeder, Bruce Carter, Mike Goodwin. **VI. Updates:** There is a typo in the paragraph 'Casey Family Programs Judicial Engagement': the numeral '9' appears in the word 'involved.'*

**II. Subcommittee reports.**

- A. Early Childhood. Don reported that Susan Draper will chair the early childhood subcommittee. She is unable to attend these task force meetings on Thursdays, so he will entertain discussion on changing the meeting to be on Wednesdays.
- B. Middle Tier. Cathy Graham reported that to date, they have held 3 meetings, two in-person and one conference call. They are looking at the entry points of children with dual diagnoses, particularly mental health and developmental disabilities (MH and DD). Three entry points were discussed-schools, emergency shelters, and juvenile detention centers. They also discussed the interaction with Law Enforcement. What works? Commander Taylor uses crisis intervention teams developed with help from NAMI and systems of care. Another resource is the Children Mental Health initiative, DCS. These multi-disciplinary teams from DCS, DMHA, BDDS and Medicaid review referrals for children whose needs aren't being met at the local level. They now have an enhanced MDT for the dual diagnosis and medically fragile children. The committee is still looking for best practices and models. They have explored Meridian Mental Health Center in Muncie and the Medicaid program called "1915-I". Can this be expanded to include children with dual diagnosis if providers are available? JauNae wants the CISC to support a site visit to New Jersey to see how an evidenced-based program succeeds. Also identified by this committee is the need for training in de-escalation for law enforcement and schools in an effort to avoid arrest or suspension. Teachers and Resource Officers need to know the child's IEP as part of this training. As of 2013, IDOE is required to develop best practices for de-escalation. Training was to have been done in the summer of 2014. Bruce to see if he can find any data. What about training the workforce? Julie Smart, IDOE, reported there is no course work on how to understand DD and MH.

What information do we have or need? Any available through JDAI? JDAI hopes to gather data retroactively and provide a snapshot. IARCCA collects IQ and a child's diagnosis and can provide a snapshot of services being provided. What can be collected on the JD side? What does MAIZI gather? All acknowledged there is a lot

of data available once a child is in the system. We need more information up front so that the child can stay out of the detention system.

Judge Pratt indicated this is a definite focus for the task force to address. The emergency response cuts across all three populations. Is there a means of identifying children with dual diagnoses in the detention standards?

- C. Older Group. Chris Blessinger reported they have held one meeting, where they discussed the purpose of CISC and related purpose of their subcommittee. Don Travis talked about the difference between cross system youth and dual jurisdiction. Who is responsible to get services coordinated? No one knows.

Randy Taylor from Indiana Housing and Community Development reported that under their guidelines, as long a child is getting some kind of services, they aren't considered 'homeless'. That is why Indiana statistics don't reflect high numbers of homeless youth. H.U.D. funding may be used for youth with mental health issues; can be used for dually diagnosed youth provided that one of the diagnoses is mental health. Cathy Graham reported that the waiver list still has a waiting list of 3-4 years. Parents of the middle age group youth should be encouraged to get on the list sooner. DCS is working with parents on how to get paperwork done.

Heather Kestian has been added to this group.

### III. **Open Discussion**

A presentation on homeless youth in schools was given by Jessica Crozier, Ft. Wayne Community Schools. In 2013, she provided services to 524 students. In 2014, she has provided services to 420 students. She operates under the guidelines of The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (2001), which 'ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.' Unlike H.U.D., their guidelines recognize "unaccompanied youth" as a subset of homelessness, which includes kids not in custody of parents. These are mainly 17-19 year olds, also called 'couch surfers.' The Villages and shelter care facilities will take 18 year olds. The Villages has scattered sites for homeless youth. Section 8 Housing will take families, but there is a long waiting list. If a child is a behavior problem or criminally charged, the family is evicted. Shelter Care facilities do not want anyone under 18, since legally they have to report them to the DCS, who will treat these children as abandoned.

JauNae asked if we need a new CHINS category for homeless families. Judge Pratt asked who would have jurisdiction. We need to look at models to avoid putting children in foster care. Examples include host families and residential facilities.

Bruce Carter said that the biggest barrier to serving homeless youth in Wayne Township is the cost of transportation. He said last year's budget was \$90,000-100,000 to serve Wayne Township's approximately 700 unaccompanied youth. He also said the numbers are trending up at the rate of 20% per year.

Charges for next meeting: To continue with subcommittee reports. Goal: meet every 60 days on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every other month and coordinate with CISC meetings. Plan on making recommendations at the February 18 meeting of the CISC.

New subcommittee: "dually involved/dually adjudicated" youth. Don and Judge Pratt are looking for a model through the Judicial Engagement project with Casey. It is

anticipated that five pilot sites will be identified. One is likely to be Marion County, who just received a McArthur foundation Grant to develop dual jurisdiction courts. Gael Deppart will be lead judge.

**IV. Dates for the next two meetings:**

Tuesday, February 10, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14, 1:00 p.m.